



## President's Message

### September 2023

Greetings Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary,

I hope that each of you has had a wonderful summer season and are getting ready for the cool temperatures and the comforts of the Fall & Winter Seasons. By now, I am hoping that your District has had its mini-School of Instruction and that you have had a chance to review the materials and discuss them within your respective auxiliaries. **District & Auxiliary visits begin this month!** So *please* make sure that your Auxiliary has the date, location and time of your District's official visit, as well as your respective District President's visit date to your Auxiliary. During the Department's official visit, the Department Chairman will have some valuable information to share about their programs, which they have prepared specially for each of you. Please reach out to them if there is something specific about their program that you would like them to address at your District meetings. *Auxiliary Presidents don't forget your President's reports.* I am looking forward to seeing all of you and hearing about all the wonderful things that you are doing on behalf of our Veterans. I wonder how many unique ways we can find this year to Be A Veteran's P.A.L.?



Sisters and brothers, I cannot tell you how excited I am to be welcoming our VFW Auxiliary National President Carla Martinez to Maryland this month. We have some exciting events planned for her visit. The visit will begin with her joining us for the first-ever Department VFW & Auxiliary Family Freedom Festival. This will take place on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at VFW Post #7472 in Ellicott City, Maryland. The festival hours are 11 am to 3 pm. If you have not signed up, we still need volunteers. On Sunday night, we will have a dinner for National President Carla at VFW Post #521. I am expecting a good turnout so that we can do an Aisle of Honor as she arrives for the dinner. Her visit to Maryland will end with a sendoff breakfast on Monday at 9 a.m. at the EC Diner in Ellicott City. Let's show National President Carla that Maryland is full of love for her and our Veterans and their families.

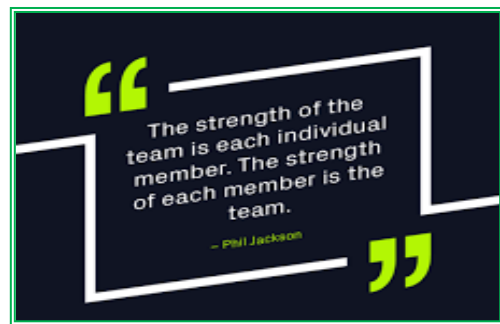


Does your auxiliary plan to celebrate Patriot's Day, Prisoner of War/Missing In Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day, or Gold, Blue, Silver, and White Star families day? Please send pictures so that we can put them on our website and/or Facebook page.

Our next Council of Administration meeting is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm at Aberdeen VFW Post 10028, 821 Old Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen, Maryland. Everyone is invited to attend and I hope to see you there

Sadly, for some, I am NOT a very active social media person. Should you wish to invite me to an event, have a question, or want to say Hello? Please do not use social media. My preferred methods of contact are phone, text, email, and/or even old-fashioned snail (postal) mail – don't forget to use an American flag stamp for an Americanism report. Please spread the word about the change in my email address. **My correct email address is [BeAVeteransPal@Comcast.net](mailto:BeAVeteransPal@Comcast.net)**. The [vanetteforveterans@gmail.com](mailto:vanetteforveterans@gmail.com) email account is no longer valid. Please delete this email address from your contacts and address book as I will not receive the emails that are being sent to it.

Remember to use your forwarding finger, as information is sent to you, please share it. We want everyone to be informed and included. The information sent is for everyone – so please do not “hold” it. Develop a phone tree or email or text group, in which you can share information. Practice S.W.A.P.ing with other auxiliaries - Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects. Each Auxiliary and District does something different, take cues from other auxiliaries to help promote our programs and develop fundraising ideas. Any way in which we can positively recruit new members, and spread awareness on the needs of our veterans and their families and ways in which we serve the community.



*Don't forget to **THANK** Department Treasurer Jackie Kimball for getting all Auxiliaries bonded and Department Secretary Libby DallaTezza for keeping the website updated. These two ladies work so hard behind the scenes!!*

We may not always agree – we can agree to disagree but come together for the common goal of serving our veterans and their families. Remember to Be Humble and Kind at all times – you never know who is observing and listening. We want everyone who mentions the VFW Auxiliary name to say it with a SMILE!

